United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.30

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
29 January 2013

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 30th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 21 November 2012 at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

Contents

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*)

(h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*)

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*)

Agenda item 61: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

12-60032 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.13/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.13/Rev.1: Oil slick on Lebanese shores

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Merabet** (Algeria), speaking as the primary sponsor of the draft resolution and on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that the oil slick on Lebanese shores continued to hinder Lebanon's efforts to promote sustainable development. He looked forward to the support of the overwhelming majority of Member States.

3. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bosnia and Herzegovina had joined the sponsors.

4. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Colombia, Panama.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.13/Rev.1 was adopted by 152 votes to 7, with 3 abstentions.*

6. **Mr. David** (Israel) said that the crucial work of the Committee had yet again been hijacked by certain delegations driven by narrow political motivations. The draft resolution served no purpose other than "Israel-bashing". It failed to mention that the Lebanese terrorist organization Hizbullah had started the 2006 conflict with unprovoked attacks on Israel or that its rockets had endangered Israel's fauna, flora and historical sites. It also failed to acknowledge that, in the wake of the oil spill, Israel had immediately responded to requests from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea by assisting and issuing permits for the aerial photography flights requested by international agencies. Israel had cooperated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in addressing the environmental situation along the coast of Lebanon. Moreover, the draft resolution intentionally ignored the findings of the 2007 UNEP report entitled "Lebanon: post-conflict environmental assessment", which gave a very different account of the situation.

7. **Ms Ziade** (Lebanon) said that Israel's 15 July 2006 air strike on the oil storage facility in Jiyeh had caused the worst recorded environmental disaster in the

eastern Mediterranean sea, resulting in ongoing social, economic and environmental damage to Lebanon. Israel's air and marine blockade had impeded efforts to contain the spread of oil during the critical early stages, and Lebanon was still engaged in the resulting clean-up, waste management and rehabilitation. The report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/67/341) emphasized that a full recovery would take several years and that Lebanon needed continued support.

8. At successive sessions, the General Assembly had reiterated its request for the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon. According to the first report of the Secretary-General on the topic (A/62/343), one expert, Professor Richard Steiner, had asserted that Israel should participate in a full and independent legal inquiry, establish a reimbursement fund and implement a comprehensive restoration programme; however, the Government of Israel had not deemed it proper to accede to those requests. The Committee's overwhelming support for the draft resolution reflected its renewed commitment to sustainable development and the rule of law.

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.38)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.38: Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013

9. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan) introducing the draft resolution, noted that it welcomed the offer of the Government of Tajikistan to host, in September 2013, a high-level international conference on water cooperation and invited the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level interactive dialogue in New York on 22 March 2013, World Water Day. Belarus, Benin, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Kuwait, Mauritius, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, South Africa, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam had become sponsors.

10. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Kyrgyzstan and Surinam had also joined the sponsors.

(h) Harmony with nature (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.37)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.37: Harmony with nature

11. **Mr. Llorentty Solíz** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), introducing the draft resolution, said that its principal purpose was to convene, at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, an interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2013 in order to promote alternative economic approaches incorporating a more ethical relationship between humanity and the Earth system. The report of the Secretary-General on harmony with nature (A/67/317) stressed that the time had come to change from a neoclassical economic system, which was constantly being reaffirmed on unscientific assumptions about the dynamics of market systems deriving from neoclassical economic theory, to an economic system rooted in the science of the deeply interconnected mosaic of relationships between human and environmental systems. The term "Mother Earth" was recognized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex) as a common expression in a number of countries and regions.

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.3/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.3/Rev.1: Towards a New International Economic Order (*continued*)

12. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India,

Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cambodia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Ukraine.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.3/Rev.1 was adopted by 113 votes to 47, with 5 abstentions.*

15. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that the current session marked the thirty-eighth anniversary of the declaration of a new economic order. The draft resolution just adopted had been considered during previous sessions of the General Assembly but once again fell short; it did not move the international economic development dialogue into the twenty-first century. The current global economic challenges were vastly different from those of the 1970s; the extraordinary growth in trade and international investment had led to powerful new economies and rising incomes for hundreds of millions of people. Her delegation supported and shared the international community's goal of continued growth and sustainable economic development, but the substance of the resolution was dated, divisive and counter-productive. She had therefore voted against it.

16. **Ms. Pederson** (Canada) said that the draft resolution largely repeated the content of previous resolutions on the subject. The global economy, while vulnerable, was well on the way to recovery. By calling on Member States to embark on a new economic order, the draft resolution sent a conflicting message about United Nations efforts to create jobs, economic growth and long-term prosperity. It undermined the work of the Group of 20 and did nothing to spur collective efforts towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Her delegation fully supported the development agenda of the United Nations, but the draft resolution worked against that goal. For that reason, she had voted against it.

17. **Ms. Zoupaniotis** (Cyprus), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, like prior resolutions on the topic, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.3 did not reflect the current international order, which was driven by globalization, technological innovation and the emergence of new economic actors. The European Union was concerned that the draft resolution sent an inaccurate message about the ability of the United Nations to contribute to solving current world problems. By failing to build on recent discussions and outcomes, including those of Rio+20, the July 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and the outcome documents of the meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions, the Group of Eight and the Group of 20, it risked marginalizing the role of the Organization in global economic governance. Moreover, the revised version of the draft resolution contained new language, not discussed during informal consultations, which further devalued it and reflected negatively on the work of the Committee.

18. The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to promoting multilateral solutions to common problems, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, with a view to achievement of the MDGs and to the promotion of sustained, inclusive and equitable growth as a basis for sustainable development.

19. **Ms. Luna** (Mexico) said that although her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, as it had on previous occasions, it believed that the eighteenth preambular paragraph was not sufficiently precise with respect to the effects of monetary policy on trade. Such policies did not necessarily have the same effect as an increase in import tariffs or across-the-board export subsidies as contained in the market access agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Monetary issues should be resolved by specific policies, not trade protectionism. It was vital to ensure that the issues concerned were not misconstrued in ways that could to lead to the adoption of protectionist measures on the pretext of compensating for the effects of the monetary policies of other States.

20. **Mr. Rodríguez Hernández** (Cuba) said that the current global economic crisis resembled that of the 1970s, when the United Nations had adopted a Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and established mechanisms for auditing transnational companies, as well as an ad hoc working group. Unfortunately, instead of taking similar steps to strengthen the role of the United Nations on such crucial matters, the developed countries were attempting to avoid addressing them in the General Assembly while pressing for it to recognize initiatives and exclusionary forums that lay outside its purview. The current system was obsolete; a new international economic order was desperately needed and the United Nations should play a central role in the transformation required in order to achieve it.

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.2 and L.39)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.2 and L.39: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*)

21. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.39, which was being submitted by Mr. Islam (Bangladesh) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.2.

22. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), explaining the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, said that if the comprehensive ten-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action referred to in paragraph 20 were to be held away from New York, the host Government would need to defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

23. With regard to the Review Conference referred to in paragraph 20 and the two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee referred to in paragraph 21, the estimated non-post requirements of $316,300 for the period 2014-2015 pertained to a non-recurrent provision under general and temporary assistance in the amount of $186,300, equivalent to one P-3 position for 14 months, to provide substantive and organizational preparations and servicing of two sessions of the meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and to provide substantive services to the committee of the whole and plenary meeting of the Conference; a non-recurrent provision of $70,000 for consultant services for specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat with a view to conducting studies and drafting background documents required for the intergovernmental negotiations and for preparation of an assessment of the Almaty Programme of Action; and a non-recurrent provision of $60,000 for the drafting and printing of advocacy materials and publications for the Conference.

24. The three-day Review Conference would comprise six plenary meetings and four parallel meetings with interpretation in the six official languages, as well as documentation services. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, those meetings and documentation would add to the workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for 2014. The dates of the Conference should be determined in consultation with the Department. The two two-day sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee referred to in paragraph 21 would comprise four meetings each with interpretation in all six languages, as well as documentation. Should the General Assembly adopt the

draft resolution, the eight meetings would add to the meetings and documentation workload of the Department for 2014. The dates of the sessions would have to be decided in consultation with the Department.

25. It was therefore estimated that the request contained in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the draft resolution would entail additional requirements in the amount of $598,600 in the biennium 2014-2015. The measures referred to in paragraph 26 would be taken with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. With regard to paragraph 27, the requirements for providing the necessary substantive and organizational arrangements and for organizing the preparatory review meetings at the regional level in 2013 would be met from voluntary contributions received for the purpose of funding activities for landlocked developing countries.

26. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, there would be no additional requirements under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The additional requirements of $914,900, including $598,600 pertaining to General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $316,300 pertaining to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

27. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) made a minor editorial correction to the draft resolution.

28. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.39, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

29. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.2 was withdrawn.*

30. **Mr. Pescheux** (France) said that although his delegation had not opposed the adoption of the draft resolution, it would notify the Secretariat of some inaccuracies in the French version of the text.

31. **Mr. Llorentty Solíz** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) reiterated his delegation's position on the issue: the Plurinational State of Bolivia was not a landlocked State but one that had been temporarily deprived of access to the sea and to its own coast by virtue of an invasion. His country reserved the right to use all available means at its disposal under international law to resolve that problem.

32. **Mr. Gálvez** (Chile) said that, as a transit country, Chile had met its obligations under all relevant international instruments and had made major investments over time in order to build a modern infrastructure system in the territory in question. Respect for border agreements between neighbouring countries was an essential element of trust and a guarantee of regional and international peace and security. His Government would not stray from that principle.

33. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution as a tangible sign of the importance it attached to the development of the landlocked developing countries. However, as a major contributor to the United Nations, the United States of America would have preferred for the budgetary information on the 2014 Review Conference to have been provided and discussed earlier. While recognizing that the figures presented by the Secretariat were estimates based on prior conferences, her delegation hoped and expected that every effort to contain costs would be made.

Agenda item 61: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.33)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.33: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*)

34. **The Chair** said that Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Namibia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam had become sponsors of the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

35. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam,

Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.33 was adopted by 156 votes to 5, with 7 abstentions.*

37. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel) said that her delegation was disappointed that the Committee had once again chosen to waste its valuable time on the whims of certain delegations whose sole mission was to disparage her country. Israelis and Palestinians shared the same environmental challenges and could resolve them only by working together. Israel had cooperated extensively with the Palestinian Authority on environmental issues; for example, a coalition of Israeli and Palestinian stakeholders was working to address the severe pollution in the Kidron valley. If the sponsors of the draft resolution genuinely cared about the welfare of the Palestinian people, they would support cooperation rather than antagonism. Like its predecessors, the draft resolution would merely gather dust on a shelf; such useless rituals did nothing to advance the interests of the Palestinians. The outstanding issues should be addressed in Jerusalem and Ramallah, not in New York.

38. **Mr. Alhantouli** (Observer for Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the overwhelming majority of members of the Committee supported the sovereignty of Palestine and of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, which were their principal asset for development. The draft resolution reminded Israel, the occupying Power, that the international community rejected its colonial domination of the territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan. Israel must put an end to its violations of international law in those territories, including the appropriation of land and water, destruction of agriculture and pollution of the environment.

39. The joint initiatives to which the representative of Israel had referred were illusory; Israel used them to consolidate its occupation and deceive the international community. Only a week before, its war machine had launched a savage attack on the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip that had killed some 150 people, over 40 of them children. That brutal onslaught was only the latest addition to Israel's record of violations, expropriation, destruction and collective punishment. It was attempting to draw attention away from the blood on its hands by putting forward initiatives on economic and financial issues. In reality, however, it had only one face: that of an occupying State.

40. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Israel had done everything in its power to avoid the current conflict. In 2005, it had completely disengaged from the Gaza Strip, giving the Palestinians an opportunity to make it an oasis of prosperity. Instead, they had made it an ammunition dump and a launching pad for rockets, over 12,000 of

which had been fired at Israeli communities by Hamas in the past decade; that very day, a suicide attack on a bus in Tel Aviv had taken the lives of 20 innocent civilians. Israel's objective had been to defend itself by targeting the infrastructure of Hamas, whose attacks had paralysed life for over a million Israeli citizens.

41. **Mr. Alhantouli** (Observer for Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had yet again distorted the facts. Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory had continued since 1967, and the right of self-defence could not be used as a pretext for massacring innocent civilians. The Israeli Government was using the blood of Palestinian children to prepare for its electoral campaign. Those facts were not in themselves the concern of the Second Committee, but Israel should not have the temerity to claim that the situation was normal or that it was committed to promoting development. The members of the Committee knew the reality of the occupation.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 11.50 a.m.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.38/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.38/Rev.1: Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013 (*continued*)

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure.

2. **Ms. Montel** (France) said that as the French text of the draft resolution was not yet available, her delegation reserved the right to make comments on or amendments to it in due course.

3. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan), made minor editorial corrections to the draft resolution and said that the delegations of China, Finland, Honduras, Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Luxembourg, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal and the Republic of Korea had become sponsors.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.38/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

5. **Mr. Khodjaev** (Uzbekistan) said his delegation concurred that water was critical for agriculture and food production, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, as well as being indispensable to human health and well-being. However, his Government did not consider the high-level international conference on water cooperation referred to in paragraph 3 of the resolution to be a United Nations event. Therefore, its outcome document should not be considered or interpreted in the future as representing the position of all Member States or as an internationally agreed, legally binding instrument. In an effort to preserve the consensus, his delegation would not participate in the adoption of the resolution and his Government would not be bound by any obligations arising from it.

6. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the resolution by consensus as proof of the importance that the Committee attached to issues pertaining to water. Joint efforts at all levels during the International Year of Water Cooperation would make a significant contribution towards achievement of the internationally agreed goals with regard to water.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.5, L.7, L. 19, L.40, L.41 and L.42)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.5 and L.41: Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations (*continued*)

7. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.41, which had been submitted by the Rapporteur, Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.5. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.41 was adopted.*

9. **Ms. Şerbetci** (Turkey) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because it addressed important issues with respect to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea and because her Government fully supported the efforts of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources. However, it disassociated itself from the resolution's references to international instruments to which Turkey was not a party and stressed that those references should not be interpreted as a change in her country's legal position with regard to those instruments.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.5 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.7 and L.42: International Year of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

11. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.42, which had been submitted by the Rapporteur, Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on

draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.7. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. **Ms. Bosio** (France) said that as the French text of the draft resolution was not yet available, her delegation reserved the right to make comments on or amendments to it in due course.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.42 was adopted.*

14. **Ms. Deiye** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that the resolution merited the Committee's full support; the designation of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States would raise awareness of the special situation of those States and mobilize international support for their sustainable development.

15. **Mr. Devanlay** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union and its member States were committed to the sustainable development of the small island developing States through implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. However, it wished to reiterate its position that the proclamation of international days, years and decades must be consistent with the international guidelines that had been set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 and reaffirmed in General Assembly resolutions 53/199 and 61/185. The European Union would have liked to have an opportunity for further discussion of the alternatives proposed during informal consultations; however, in a spirit of compromise, its member States had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. It would, however, continue to defend the Council's guidelines and to prioritize efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the work of the General Assembly with a view to its revitalization.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.7 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.19 and L.40: Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

17. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, which had been submitted by the Rapporteur, Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.19.

18. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), explaining the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, said that, should a third international conference on small island developing States be held in Samoa, the host Government would need to defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

19. Non-post requirements of $314,000 for the biennium 2014-2015 would include a non-recurrent provision, equivalent to one P-3 position for 12 months, to provide analytical support for the global preparatory process, including the preparation of background and synthesis papers, and a non-recurrent provision of $154,300 for the organization of a four-day expert group meeting in New York to prepare technical and substantive inputs for the Conference. Non-post requirements of $206,500 for the biennium 2014-2015 would also include a non-recurrent provision in the amount of $106,500, equivalent to one P-3 position for eight months, to provide substantive and organizational preparations for and servicing of the meetings relating to preparations for the conference, including pre-conference events, the intergovernmental preparatory committee and the negotiations of the conference and the outcome documents; a non-recurrent provision in the amount of $50,000 for the provision of consultant services for specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat in order to assist in the development and execution of a strategic advocacy strategy aimed at building consensus among Member States around a core set of issues in the lead-up to the Conference; and a non-recurrent provision in the amount of $50,000 for layout and printing of advocacy materials and publications.

20. The requirements for the holding of a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States and the interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States in 2013, mentioned in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, would be met from voluntary contributions. As the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, would further consider the modalities, format and organization of the meeting of the preparatory committee, to be held in early 2014, and of the conference, it was not yet possible to estimate the potential implications of the requirements for meetings and documentation. Once those matters had been decided, the Secretary-General would submit the

requirements in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure.

21. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no additional requirements would arise for the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The additional requirements of $520,000, including $314,000 under section 9 (Economic and social affairs) and $206,000 under section 10 (Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States), would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

22. **Ms. Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) made a minor editorial correction to the draft resolution.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.19 was withdrawn.*

25. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/67/313).

26. *It was so decided.*

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.20 and L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.43: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*)

27. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.43, which had been submitted by the Rapporteur, Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.20. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

28. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.43 was adopted.*

29. **Mr. Laguna** (Mexico) said that the outcome of the negotiations on the draft resolution had not fully reflected his delegation's expectations. In light of the scientific evidence that corroborated the urgent need for collective action and for the active participation of all States, the draft resolution should strengthen global efforts to address the problem of climate change. The General Assembly should send a balanced and comprehensive political message regarding implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that faithfully reflected the understandings reached within the framework of that instrument. International negotiations under the Convention were at a delicate stage in the transition to a stronger regime and the bodies and working groups mandated to oversee its implementation did not act in a vacuum; there were a number of interlinked factors at play.

30. While his delegation welcomed the adoption of a final, balanced text that recognized that complex reality, it regretted that the Committee had taken so long to reach agreement on the text of the draft resolution. Delegations should refrain from adopting selective approaches that sought to prejudge the outcome of multilateral discussions in other forums and all decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should be implemented as agreed, without ambiguity and in good faith.

31. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) said that climate change was a key priority for President Obama's administration; her country had reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by almost 9 per cent from the 2005 levels and was actively engaged with its international partners in addressing the issue at the global level. Significant progress had been made and she hoped that that process would continue at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

32. The seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties had taken a major step forward by moving away from the unsustainable "developed versus developing countries" paradigm with a view to developing a regime that would be applicable to all States parties and would reflect evolving global emissions trends and economic circumstances. While her delegation had hoped that the draft resolution would better reflect those more recent approaches, it would continue to work constructively with others in addressing that important issue.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.20 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.